

ISAJE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

The International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE) has 53 members, representing 42 journals, and 2 corporate members. During the year ISAJE received 5 new member applications. Three members resigned or did not pay their membership renewal.

The board (Paul Candon, Sally Gainsbury, Tom McGovern, Peter Miller (past president), Michal Miovsky, Richard Pates (vice president), Andrey Soloviev, Anna Tsiboukli, Kerstin Stenius (president) and Molly Jarvis (executive officer), September 2012, has met for telephone meetings 8 times during the year.

In February, a draft 4 year plan was presented for discussion in the board, and later sent out for comments among the members. A revised version was presented and discussed at the meeting in Santiago. The document recognizes several strengths of the organisation (uniquely multi-competent expertise, creative and wide reaching network) but also serious challenges (small, busy membership, with varying needs and few economic resources). Six crucial areas for development work within ISAJE were recognized: quality assurance (ethical guidelines, good practices, guidelines for quality control in the publication process); strengthening of membership (through "marketing" and external information about ISAJE, better internal communication, good meetings, cooperation with other organisations, recruitment of members, membership criteria); financing (funding for website, training or books as potential income sources); training (market our training potential, funding for more and adopted training material, combine training and mentoring, focus on emerging economies); research dissemination across language borders (dissemination of non-English findings through ISAJE website, use of terms and concepts, also across languages) and last but not least the development of technical and managerial skills (for instance, skills for electronic editing, the impact of open access journals, publishing companies' policies, management of social networks, how to handle the impact factor, finding the niche of a journal etc.)

In the spring, it was decided that the agendas and minutes of the board meetings shall be posted on the web to improve the communication between the board and other members. Sally Gainsbury and Daryl Boshart produced an excellent newsletter in December. Due to Sally's difficulties to get contributions it was decided in the board that ISAJE's internal communication will mainly take place via the LinkedIn group.

The board has also recognized the need to merge the PARINT and ISAJE websites and at the same time modernise the website and make it possible to update without external support. Molly Jarvis is producing plan for this. However, it will require substantial extra funding.

Several working groups were formed at the Lisbon meeting in 2012. The most active, the training working group, has been led by Richard Pates. A successful application for training funding was sent to NIDA and 10 000 dollar was awarded to support training and workshops primarily in emerging economies. Richard Pates attended the NIDA International Forum in San Diego in June 2013 and presented a poster introducing ISAJE's mission, the training programme and material and the mentoring scheme.

It was decided, after talks with NIDA that the mentoring scheme, chaired by Peter Miller, will be incorporated in the training program.

Michal Miovsky planned and organized a one week long scientific writing and publishing training course for junior researchers at the Prague summer school in July 2013. The course and the development of training material which has started (the so called NETAD-project) was hosted by the Charles University with a contract with ISAJE and financed by the Czech government (?). The teaching was provided Richard Pates and Phil Lange (a former, now retired, ISAJE member). This course will lead to training material/modules, based on Publishing Addiction Science, for student/researchers in earlier phases of their writing career. Anna Tsiboukli, also in the training group, has proposed an EU application for a scientific writing training course for professionals in Greece in 2014, which will imply a further adoption and development of ISAJE's training material.

In June 2013, an ISAJE sponsored workshop was also held in Kampala, Uganda, with ISAJE members as teachers. Both the Prague course and the workshop have been evaluated with excellent results.

The Publishing Addiction Science 2 was translated to Spanish by PAHO, and a copyright agreement was signed by ISAJE. The Spanish book will be freely available on the web.

A working group on gender policy was started with the Lisbon meeting. Tom Babor has been coordinating an EASE (European Association of Science Editors) project, which has mapped journal gender policies and attitudes to such policies. The ISAJE membership was chosen as a special target group for this survey. A report of the ISAJE survey and proposed guidelines for gender policies for journals was presented at the annual meeting.

The language group is led by Michal Miovsky. An experiment started during the year aiming at improving dissemination in English of findings published in other languages with the help of the ISAJE network. Abstracts with tables and figures of three articles were submitted for assessments of possible publication channels. These articles were, however, highly specialized and it was difficult to find suitable member journals. Guidelines for the requirements on abstracts, tables and figures are under development. The language group also negotiated with the Mentor Foundation International for funding of a glossary on addiction terms, unfortunately so far without success.

Paul Candon led the work to develop clear membership criteria, which is necessary in the work to recruit new members. A document was presented for discussion at the annual meeting.

The board decided unanimously that ISAJE would sign the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment, which among other things argues for the need to stop using "journal-based metrics, such as impact factors, in funding, appointment and promotion considerations" and for "the need to capitalize on the opportunities provided by online publication". The document was discussed at the meeting in Santiago.

Finally, the board has discussed appropriate ways to commemorate Griffith Edwards, the founding father of ISAJE. It was decided to set up a new section on the ISAJE website with information about Griffith Edwards, including obituaries in member journals. Tom Babor raised the idea of installing a Griffith Edwards fund. Another idea was to rename the Young Scholars Award after Griffith Edwards. This matter was further discussed at the ISAJE meeting in Santiago.